Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-93-023
Friday
5 February 1993

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-93-023 5 February 1993

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Foreign Minister on U.S. 'Hostilities,' Embargo *[Havana Radio]* 1
Havana City Province Gas Service Interrupted *[Havana Radio]* 1
Foreign Oil Companies To Conduct Oil Exploration *[Havana Radio]* 1
Fidel Castro Meets With Hungarian Delegation *[Havana Radio]* 1
Participants in 'Education 93' Express Solidarity *[Havana Radio]* 1
Departing Mexican Ambassador Comments *[Havana Radio]* 2
Haitian Refugees Repatriated 4 Feb *[Havana Radio]* 2

Cayman Islands

Over 100 Cuban Refugees Rescued From 55-Foot Boat *[CANA]* 2

Haiti

Caputo Continues Meetings With Bazin, Cedras *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 2
Discuss Counterproposals *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 3
UN Envoy Fails To Get Agreement on Mission *[Bonaire Radio]* 3
Pro-Aristide Leaflets Distributed in Cap Haitien *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 3

MEXICO

Government Secretary Announces Interior Policy *[Mexico City TV]* 4
Poll: 80 Percent Feel Salinas Fulfilled Promises *[Mexico City TV]* 4
U.S. Embargo Costs Fishing Industry $16 Million *[Mexico City TV]* 4
Import, Export Official on Trade Deficit *[Mexico City TV]* 5

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Labor Unions Oppose Restrictions on Exports *[San Salvador TV]* 6

Honduras

Army Battalions To Reinforce San Pedro Sula Police *[Tegucigalpa Radio]* 6
Human Rights President Says Statements 'Not Rash' *[LA TRIBUNA 4 Feb]* 6

Nicaragua

UNO Confirms Willingness To Talk With President *[Managua Radio]* 7

Panama

Further on Assembly Special Sessions for ARI 7
Linares Warns of 'Negative Image' *[LA PRENSA 4 Feb]* 7
Delay Said Result of PRD 'Boycott' *[LA PRENSA 4 Feb]* 7
Article Two Approved *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 4 Feb]* 8

Police Arrest Man Suspected of Terrorism *[LA PRENSA 29 Jan]* 8
Governor Establishes Curfew for Minors *[Panama City TV]* 9

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Defense Minister Gonzalez Visits Germany *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 10
Comments on U.S. Import Restrictions *[CLARIN 3 Feb]* 10
British Official Says Menem Visit 'Not Defined' *[CLARIN 3 Feb]* 10
Mobile Hospital Ready for Service in Mozambique *[TELAM]* 11

Brazil

Republican Presidentialist Movement Founded *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 11
President Franco Sanctions Plebiscite Law *[Brasilia Radio]* 11
Government Seeks New Agreement With IMF *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 4 Feb]* 11
* Russians To Develop Fuel for Launch Vehicle *[GAZETA MERCANTIL 23-25 Jan]* 12

Colombia

Suspected Drug Trafficker Surrenders Properties *[EL NUEVO SIGLO 31 Jan]* 12
Authorities Confirm Deaths of Escobar Associates *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 13

Paraguay

Rodriguez Denies Pressuring Supreme Court *[ABC COLOR 4 Feb]* 13
PLRA Leader Views Pressure *[Lambare Radio]* 13
Minister Comments on Pressure *[Lambare Radio]* 13
Colorado Deputy Discusses Defending Constitution *[Lambare Radio]* 14

Peru

U.S. To Resume Air Reconnaissance Flights *[LA REPUBLICA 28 Jan]* 14

Uruguay

Agriculture Minister Ramos Tenders Resignation *[EL PAIS 30 Jan]* 15

Cuba

Foreign Minister on U.S. 'Hostilities,' Embargo

FL0502140993 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon said that instead of lessening tensions and moving toward a more normal relationship with our country, U.S. imperialism has increased and intensified its hostilities, now made more serious by the new international situation caused by the disappearance of the socialist bloc and the Soviet Union.

In a discussion with participants at the Education 93 continental meeting of teachers, he affirmed that the U.S. embargo should end because it is illegal. Expanding on this problem, he said Cuba does not have to make any concession or change imposed by its enemies. [passage omitted]

Havana City Province Gas Service Interrupted

FL0402191193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The cooking gas enterprise in Havana City Province has reported that there have been problems with service to the public. The considerable problems with the gas service are due to breakdowns at the Mario Fortuny Plant in Marianao. Specialists are working industriously to bring the damaged line back into service and restore distribution as quickly as possible.

The enterprise repeats that it provides service every day from 0600 to 1330 and from 1730 until the end of the night, thus covering demand at the peak hours under normal conditions. The enterprise also explained that not all customers receive gas at the same time, especially in the evening hours, since as the gas moves through the pipelines, pressure is not sufficiently high everywhere at the same time.

Foreign Oil Companies To Conduct Oil Exploration

PA0502130093 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Following several years of research, well-known international companies are almost ready to begin drilling for oil in land and maritime areas in the Cuban archipelago, experts in this field have stated in Havana. A report by the weekly BOHEMIA magazine stated that the state-owned Cubapetroleo has formalized contracts with Canadian North Energic Limited, the French companies (Total) and European Oil, the Swedish company (Taurus), and others.

BOHEMIA describes as positive the results of preliminary research conducted by the French companies, mainly in a maritime and islet region located northeast of central Matanzas Province. For several years Cuba has been practicing what is referred to as high risk [a riesgo] exploration after experiencing a drop in domestic fuel supplies and in technical supplies needed to exploit crude, which basically came from the defunct Soviet Union and Romania.

Cuban oil production totaled 882,000 tons in 1992, and it is expected to reach 1.3 million tons this year.

Fidel Castro Meets With Hungarian Delegation

FL0402162393 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has met in Havana with the delegation from the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, MSZMP, headed by MSZMP President Comrade Gyula Thurmer, who reiterated her solidarity and support for the Cuban Revolution. (Magda Cracs), a member of the MSZMP Presidium; (Imre Szilagyi), a member of the MSZMP Central Committee and mayor of Ocsa; and Cuban Politburo member Jose Ramon Balaguer also participated in the meeting.

Participants in 'Education 93' Express Solidarity

FL0402191893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Report by Carlos Santana Ojeda]

[Excerpt] The lecture on the Cuban Revolution's foreign policy given by Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada began the fourth day of work at the meeting for the unity of Latin American teachers called Education 93. This conference has been in session since 1 February at the Havana Convention Center and is attended by more than 5,000 foreign delegates and 500 Cubans.

In a brief summary, Alarcon explained to those present why the Cuban Revolution is resisting the pressures exerted on it, what the Torricelli Law means, the Cubans' ability to cope with problems, and the demonstrations of affection that are taking place in every country as expressions of sympathy and encouragement.

The lecture gave rise to a valuable discussion among those present, who showed respect for and solidarity with the Cuban Revolution. An Argentine teacher whose name I did not catch asked for the floor just to say that his country's government has become a U.S. accomplice in its policy against Cuba, but he explained—and this was applauded at length—that his people support Cuba and everything it represents for Latin America.

A Mexican teacher said that solidarity with Cuba must be increased, and this proposal was received with loud applause from those attending this lecture, which was given to a full auditorium. To be more exact, even the stairs giving access to the seats were filled with people, who constantly asked for the floor in order to ask Alarcon questions.

As a high point in the expressions of sympathy with Cuba, a Venezuelan teacher proposed that a letter to the United Nations be drawn up stating the rejection of the teachers attending this Education 93 conference of the incessant embargo against Cuba. This proposal met with a lengthy ovation from the audience. [passage omitted of comments by participants]

Departing Mexican Ambassador Comments

FL0402194493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The 16th plenary session of the Cuba-Mexico Bilateral Commission is being held at the Habana Libre Hotel, attended by Mexican businessmen and representatives of the Cuban Government. Reporter Zenaida Costales talked with Mexican Ambassador to Cuba Mario Moya Palencia about the purpose of this meeting. The diplomat took the occasion to give his regards to the Cuban people, in view of his transfer to a new post.

[Begin Moya recording] Well, it is to reach even closer ties between Mexican businessmen and Cuban state enterprise officials and between the governments of the two countries in order to continue to expand and develop economic and trade cooperation between us. I think this meeting, like many others that have been held, will contribute greatly to this expansion in aims and procedures both for trade and for developing the Mexican investments that are now beginning to take place in several sectors of the Cuban economy.

Likewise, as I said in the words with which I expressed thanks for the cooperation the Cuban Government has always given to the Mexican Embassy and Mexican delegations, I am now saying goodbye because I am being transferred to another very honorable post that President Salinas de Gortari has assigned to me, and from which I will in some way or another continue my contact with Cuba. But I am going with deep satisfaction because of the high level our relations have reached and especially the close identification that exists between the Mexican and Cuban peoples.

I repeat that a change of ambassador is not a change in policy. We will continue with the same policy of friendship and respect towards the Republic of Cuba and of affection towards its people. [end recording]

Haitian Refugees Repatriated 4 Feb

FL0402221893 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2037 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Some 158 Haitians who arrived in Cuba by accident after having evaded the Yankee naval siege of their country will be repatriated today by plane from the city of Guantanamo at the request of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. This brings to over 1,450 the number of Haitians repatriated en masse of their own free will so far this year, after receiving humanitarian care in Cuba. The Haitians returning to their country today left Haiti around mid-January, 1993, in a sailboat that initially headed in the direction opposite to that which they later took toward the southern United States. Breakdowns during the trip forced the occupants of the sailboat to ask the Cuban authorities for help. The Cuban authorities provided them with humanitarian care at one of the centers for refugees in Maisi.

Cayman Islands

Over 100 Cuban Refugees Rescued From 55-Foot Boat

FL0502013193 Bridgetown CANA in English 2310 GMT 4 Feb 93

[By Rick Catlin]

[Text] George Town, Grand Cayman, Feb 4, CANA—Just over 100 Cuban refugees reached Cayman shores late Thursday afternoon after their 55-foot fishing vessel developed steering problems about 15 miles north of Grand Cayman. The vessel was towed into the harbour in this western Caribbean British territory by a private scuba diving boat that heard the radio call for assistance.

Deputy Police Commissioner Kevin McCann said sea rescue units were dispatched after a freighter radioed that the Cubans were in distress. The private dive boat Manta Ray was already off the north coast of Grand Cayman reading for a scuba dive when the distress call was heard and it went to render assistance. The 103 Cubans, including 20 women and 33 children, who were brought ashore were immediately processed by immigration officials and held in detention.

It was not immediately known if their original destination was the Cayman Islands. Chief Secretary Lem Hurlston, said the arrival of so many refugees at one time would necessitate "contingency plans." There are already 63 refugees in the Cayman islands. Fifteen Cubans had departed for the U.S. Wednesday morning after receiving their U.S. visas.

Hurlston said the newly arrived refugees would be "processed and detained as usual and we will take care of them." However, he added, "if their boat can be repaired and they wish to depart, that will be another option."

The sudden influx of so many refugees on the small islands' social services system already strained by having to care for so many people has caused the govenment some concern recently. Cayman has a population of 27,000 and a budget of just U.S.100,000 dollars for refugees. That has just about been exhaust [words indistinct] 1992-93 fiscal year by the refugees already in Cayman, said Hurlston.

Cubans already in Cayman are now being assisted in repairing the boat that brought them here with an eventual view to continuing their journey to a third country, most likely the U.S., said Hurlston.

Haiti

Caputo Continues Meetings With Bazin, Cedras

FL0402164593 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Since 2 February, the UN and OAS mediator in the Haitian crisis, Dante Caputo, has been holding working sessions with the consensus prime minister on the conditions outlined by the organizations for the sending of an international mission to the country. The discussions had not concluded as of late yesterday afternoon.

In a communique issued by the office of the prime minister, the government advises that it is pleased to see how national opinion has rejected that a solution to the country's problems be sought by foreigners. The government advises that it is not opposed to an international mission if it represents the first step toward a resolution to the crisis. However, according to what the government adds, it will continue to see to it that everything happens in compliance with the provisions of the Constitution and the country's laws.

Dante Caputo has already held two working sessions with the head of the consensus government within the framework of the steps he is taking to resolve the Haitian crisis. The main reason for his presence in Haiti is to look for an agreement with the rulers on the conditions under which the OAS and the United Nations will send an observer mission to the country.

Reacting last week after the UN and OAS mediator sent him a document relating to this matter, the prime minister stated that neither he nor any minister of the consensus government will sign a document which they think does not respect the country's dignity and sovereignty. In view of the seriousness of the situation, Mr. Bazin announced that he had formed a task force composed of representatives of various sectors of society to prepare an answer to the Caputo document. That group, which includes more than 20 citizens, started working on 29 January. The results of their work have not yet reached the press. All the discussions, however, are based on a text which the Haitian rulers would like to draft as their own proposal on how they would like the international mission to come to the country.

Returning to Mr. Caputo's visit. On 3 February, the UN and OAS mediator in the Haitian crisis met with the head of the Haitian Armed Forces, General Raoul Cedras. The talks lasted over two hours and took place at the Army General Headquarters in the presence of the military high command. One day before, Mr. Caputo had an important working session with Haitian Prime Minister Marc Bazin. The discussions mostly concerned Haiti's proposals regarding the conditions under which the United Nations and the OAS would send an international civilian mission to the country. Today, Mr. Caputo will continue his discussions with several Haitian officials. So far, no one knows what has been said during the international mediator's activities and consultations.

Discuss Counterproposals

FL0402214293 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The government issued a communique on the meeting between UN/OAS special envoy Dante Caputo and Prime Minister Marc Bazin. The communique states that UN special envoy, Dante Caputo, who has been in the country since 1 February, had a long working session with the consensus prime minister on counterproposals of the joint working group regarding the terms of reference of the international civilian mission in Haiti. The discussions continued on 3 February.

The government says it has taken into account the clearly expressed national opinion to seek a fair and lasting solution to the crisis, beyond secondary involvements, without any trusteeship in the Haitian state. Therefore, while reasserting its agreement in principle with the arrival of an international civilian mission as a first step toward a global settlement, the government will continue to protect the Constitution, the law, and national sovereignty.

UN Envoy Fails To Get Agreement on Mission

FL0502123393 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1100 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Dante Caputo, the returned UN envoy from Haiti has failed to get Haitian authorities to accept a human rights observer mission. He represents both the United Nations and the OAS in their diplomatic efforts in Haiti.

Haitian de facto Prime Minister Marc Bazin gave Mr. Caputo a counterproposal this past week calling for more Haitian involvement in the choosing of the observers.

Pro-Aristide Leaflets Distributed in Cap Haitien

FL0402215893 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Excerpt] The first point we will develop in the news from the provinces concerns Cap-Haitien. We have learned that there was a power outage in that city last night, apparently owing to a gas shortage. On the same day, many leaflets with Father Aristide's picture were discovered in Notre Dame Private High School and Philippe Guerrier Private High School in Cap-Haitien. Our correspondent Jocelyn Jean is going to bring us more details.

[Begin Jean recording] Many leaflets with Father Aristide's picture were distributed in Notre Dame Public High School on the morning of 3 February. On the afternoon of 3 February, distribution of leaflets with Father Aristide's picture occurred at the Philippe Guerrier Public High School in Cap-Haitien. Consequently, the students hastened to leave the public high school before dismissal time [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Government Secretary Announces Interior Policy

PA0402172093 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Following instructions from President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Jose Patrocinio Gonzalez Blanco-Garrido, the new government secretary, on 3 February issued a message to the people on the principles guiding the interior policy of the country. Gonzalez Blanco-Garrido said that the policy outlined by President Salinas de Gortari in his fourth message to the nation has not changed and therefore it remains essential to adhere to the law, respect the people and their organizations, uphold dialogue, and expand democracy and tolerance as symbols of the exercise of authority.

[Begin Gonzalez Blanco-Garrido recording] The president of the Republic has instructed the government secretary to announce to the people the principles that rule the interior policy of the country, which are as follows:

The government policy for 1993 was clearly outlined by President Salinas in his fourth message to the people. He rejected the old practices of a lack of tolerance and firmly supported the consolidation of changes and progress.

The line has not changed and those of us who work with the president clearly understand this. We must adhere to the law, respect the people and their social and political organizations; we must emphasize dialogue, expand democracy, and uphold tolerance as symbols of the exercise of authority.

Within the framework of politics, this means there will be strict adherence to the law and political capabilities so that all of us will hold the interests of the nation above everything else and build the conditions and make the necessary decisions that will guarantee impartiality in the elections.

The reforms that the country needs are for guaranteeing electoral impartiality, strengthening the political party system as well as Mexican democracy.

The Executive Branch is determined to advance on this path, guarantee impartiality in the forthcoming elections, and strengthen the party system. Within these principles that are highly valued by society, the government will promote a serious dialogue that will lead to permanent commitments with the democratic progress of our country by all political groups. We can prevent deterioration and consolidate democracy only within the framework of the law, with the joint responsibility of the political parties, and with a single commitment. That commitment is a respect for the superior interests of the nation which are democracy, sovereignty, justice, and stability with full respect for freedom.

The basis for coexistence is the state of law which establishes rights and obligations, ensures a balance between order and freedom, without which no democracy can operate. That is the best guarantee of stability that we Mexicans have always appreciated, and today—above all—in a changing world.

In Mexico, the best way to guarantee internal order is to reaffirm rights, freedom, and democratic opportunities. This is the government's policy and so we will keep it. Thank you very much. [end recording]

Poll: 80 Percent Feel Salinas Fulfilled Promises

PA0402212193 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] The National Bank of Mexico [Banamex] conducted a poll that disclosed that 80 percent of Mexicans feel that 1992 was the best year of the current administration and that President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has fulfilled his campaign promises.

The poll, conducted in 12 of the most important cities of the country, also shows that 80 percent of those interviewed describe the current administration as very good or good and think 1992 was its best year. Sixty-five percent of the population feels that the political and economic situation will improve in the near future, while 44 percent believe that the nation will continue to improve in general terms. On the other hand, 39 percent feel that there will be favorable changes in the economic situation.

According to the Banamex study, the NAFTA [North America Free Trade Agreement] and currency exchange are topics that catch most of the people's attention, while the National Solidarity Program [Pronasol] is one of the programs the people appreciate more. Regarding NAFTA, the poll showed that 60 percent of the population consider it good, while only 20 percent consider it negative. Its main advantages, according to the poll, are the creation of employment, the improvement in the quality of domestic products, and the supporting of exports.

The population also feels that the most important government decisions so far in this six-year term have been highway construction, Pronasol, and NAFTA.

U.S. Embargo Costs Fishing Industry $16 Million

PA0402152493 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Report by Luis Perez]

[Text] As a result of the tuna embargo, the Mexican fishing industry lost $16 million in one year.

The National Chamber of the Fishing Industry gave a news conference on 3 February in Mexico City. Mr. Rafael Ruiz Moreno, president of the National Chamber of the Fishing Industry, said that the embargo implemented by the United States against Mexican tuna is targeted at other objectives and not motivated by ecological considerations.

He said that despite these setbacks, the Mexican fishing industry is responding to national food demands.

[Begin Ruiz recording] We have an industry that is highly competitive, a major promoter of employment, and it produces more than enough tuna as well as an inexpensive food to satisfy Mexican demands. In addition, the fishing industry has been able to compete internationally within the framework of valid competitive practices. [end recording]

Mr. Ruiz also stated that there were no valid reasons for the embargo.

[Begin Ruiz recording] In reality, the embargo has no ecological purpose, it has simply been implemented to address commercial objectives. [end recording]

He also said that the industry is prevented from receiving more than $16 million in revenues from tuna exports to the United States. According to Moreno, during 1992 the Mexican tuna fleet captured approximately 120,000 tons of yellow fin tuna.

On the other hand, Mr. Hector Ignacio Gabaldon, secretary of the National Chamber of the Fishing Industry, said that Mexican fishing ships are the only ones in the world that normally carry international observers on board to certify the protection provided to dolphins captured during tuna catches.

He also disclosed that for the third consecutive year, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission awarded the Mexican fishing vessel Naib [as heard] a commendation as result of the largest tuna tonnage captured, as well as the least number of accidental dolphin deaths. The Naib, which flies a Mexican flag and carries a Mexican crew, was selected among 130 Japanese, Panamanian, Venezuelan, and American ships that normally fish in eastern Pacific waters.

Import, Export Official on Trade Deficit

PA0502132093 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Report by Susana Castaneira]

[Text] Rodrigo Guerra, president of the National Association of Mexican Importers and Exporters [ANIERM], held a news conference and talked about Mexico's balance of trade deficit in international markets.

Mexico bought more than it sold on international markets in 1992. Of $74 billion in total imports and exports during the year, $48 billion were Mexican purchases abroad and $26 billion were Mexican sales abroad, according to ANIERM President Guerra, who talked about the growth of Mexican exports in 1992.

[Begin Guerra recording, in progress]...a little over 1 percent. Those figures deserve some comment. We must not forget that our exports are very much tied to the economic development of our trade partners, especially the United States, which has experienced a certain degree of recession for the past two years. [end recording]

Guerra said Mexico's importation of consumer goods to modernize Mexican industries reached $11 billion in 1992.

[Begin Guerra recording] The Mexican trade balance had a deficit of approximately $19 billion. That figure should have included $5 billion in assembly plants, a sector that has been growing rapidly. That would give us a balance of trade deficit of nearly $14 billion, if you want to look at it that way. [end recording]

Guerra said that international reserves in 1992 closed at nearly $18 billion. Guerra believes 1993 will be a difficult year but one of economic consolidation. He also said that Mexican exports for 1993 will experience a 2-percent growth rate.

El Salvador

Labor Unions Oppose Restrictions on Exports

PA0502022993 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Report by Gandi Montoya]

[Text] On 4 February more than 20 labor organizations created the Labor Unions Coordinating Board [Coordinadora de Gremiales], which will be affiliated with the Latin American Central Organization of Workers, CLAT.

The first action of the organization was to ask the government and the National Peasant-Worker Unity, UNOC, to try to prevent through dialogue customs restrictions on Salvadoran export products.

The Coordinating Board, which is made up of more than 20 labor unions, urged the UNOC and Salvadoran businessmen to reach an agreement to revoke a request made to the U.S. Senate, arguing that the Salvadoran economy could be seriously affected.

[Begin unidentified union leader recording] Businessmen should assume their responsibility in ensuring respect for workers and labor rights. As workers, we must also assume our responsibility. We must stop fighting among ourselves, as this will only benefit the U.S. protectionist system. A boycott of our export products that enjoy preferential treatment will favor U.S. producers, who will find new markets for their products. [end recording]

The labor organizations admitted labor rights are not respected in El Salvador but said that the UNOC's request is not the best way to solve the problem.

[Begin second unidentified union leader recording] We know labor rights are not respected in El Salvador; there are many cases confirming this every day. The 12-year conflict had deep roots in that field. Within that context, we do not believe the best solution is requesting a boycott against Salvadoran products because, as we said before, in the long run Salvadoran workers will be directly affected. [end recording]

The leaders of the Coordinating Board affiliated to CLAT called for a dialogue to discuss this subject, as continuing the confrontation between workers and government will only exacerbate the problem.

Honduras

Army Battalions To Reinforce San Pedro Sula Police

PA0502010493 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Voz de Honduras has confirmed that following instructions by President Rafael Callejas and Division General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, head of the Armed Forces, two Army battalions are being sent to San Pedro Sula to provide security to its residents. The two battalions that will be deployed in the country's industrial capital will be directly under the command of Colonel Mario Hung Pacheco, who is the Public Security Forces commander.

San Pedro Sula has been shaken by a recent wave of violence, which obviously has worried the government to the point that it decided on the morning of 4 February to send two battalions, about 2,000 soldiers, to the city. These battalions will reinforce the police forces that normally patrol the city.

Human Rights President Says Statements 'Not Rash'

PA0502013193 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 4 Feb 93 p 13

[Text] Ramon Custodio Lopez, president of the Honduran Human Rights Defense Committee (Codeh), continued to confront the Armed Forces on 3 February. This time he confronted Colonel Jose Martinez Amador, commander of the 105th Infantry Brigade in San Pedro Sula.

The officer accused Custodio of making rash and improvised statements. Martinez Amador was referring to the human rights defender's harsh attack against military officers on 2 February.

Custodio stated: "My statements were not rash. I am not a man who acts spontatneously. I ponder my statements and each event and act in my life is the result of deliberation."

Referring to Col. Martinez, Custodio added: "I, thus, reiterate my remarks. You are incapable of ensuring the people's security."

To support his words, Custodio said that journalist Eduardo Coto, who received death threats presumably from the murderers of businessman Eduardo Pina Van Tuyl, had to flee San Pedro Sula.

"Why? Because his life was threatened at Mr. Villa Monsalves' [not further identified] wake, a place supposed to be guarded by security personnel provided by General Luis Discua (the commander of the Armed Forces), who was attending the event," Custodio said.

"What kind of security are you guaranteeing, Mr. Officer?," Custodio asked Col. Martinez. "I am not talking in an improvised manner and the Honduran people will definitely be told the truth about the events that occur in the country," he said.

"Unfortunately, the case of journalist Coto is not the first to occur in his jurisdiction," Custodio said. He added: "It seems military officers cannot guarantee the lives and properties of people in any city in the country, much less in San Pedro Sula."

Referring to his strong charges against the Armed Forces, Custodio said the charges had been heard by most Hondurans "including high-ranking military members and all the rank and staff in the country."

"The colonel, who is talking about the capability of the Armed Forces to provide security and the rashness of my tongue and thoughts, does not know what he is talking about," the human rights defender said.

"That is why I clarify my statements. It would be better for the officers to be careful, keep silent, and wait for events," he stated.

Regarding the charges he announced on 2 February, Custodio said: "They are not secret and will be revealed in due time...when we are ready," he concluded.

Nicaragua

UNO Confirms Willingness To Talk With President

PA0502041493 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Report on letter from National Opposition Union, UNO, Press and Public Relations Commission to President Chamorro in Managua on 4 February]

[Text] In a letter addressed to President Violeta Chamorro, the UNO [National Opposition Union] Press and Public Relations Commission confirmed its willingness to hold talks with the executive. The UNO expressed its willingness to search for solutions to the integral crisis the country is facing, which is preventing them from complying with the government program jointly offered to the Nicaraguan people.

Three deputies were named to visit the president of the Republic at the time and date specified in her invitation to the legislative leaders, namely 0930 on 4 February. The UNO delegates were Azucena Ferrey, Nicolas Bolanos, and Dr. Edmundo Castillo Ramirez.

The president did not receive the UNO delegates. Given this situation, Deputy Azucena Ferrey delivered the UNO letter to Dr. Danilo Lacayo, who acted on behalf of the president.

The UNO delegate took advantage of the presence of numerous reporters, who were also there, to report the contents of the letter so the people will learn the reality from the media.

The letter states the following: The UNO reiterates its willingness to talk to the president, regardless of impositions, with an agenda giving priority to the solution of national problems.

Once more, the UNO recognizes the goodwill of mayors and it reaffirms its desire to contribute to the process of democratization of Nicaragua.

[Issued] Managua, 4 February 1993

Panama

Further on Assembly Special Sessions for ARI

Linares Warns of 'Negative Image'

PA0402200493 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Feb 93 p 3

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares said the country might be portrayed in the wrong light if the Assembly special sessions end without deputies approving the bill creating the Interoceanic Region Authority [ARI].

Linares spoke after the Foreign Ministry and Assembly's foreign relations commission met with foreign diplomats to explain the importance of the ARI, which will manage the reverted areas.

Linares said the international community will realize the truth, "whether we handle this matter responsibly or irresponsibly, but a negative image would be created if the Assembly has not approved anything by 28 February."

During the meeting, David Samudio, president of the Techo Foundation, explained to the ambassadors several aspects of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and reverted areas. The ambassadors met at the Panamanian Foreign Ministry. The meeting was organized by deputy Olimpo Saez, president of the foreign relations commission, and Foreign Minister Linares.

Samudio said the canal area measures some 147,000 hectares, 33,000 of which have not been reverted to Panama. He said that only 6 percent of the 89,000 hectares that have already been reverted can be used for the development of Panama City and Colon. He added that in the reverted areas there are approximately 18 million square meters of construction, which represents "a tremendous infrastructure" whose positive utilization would benefit Panama.

Finally, Samudio said that plans and programs have been drafted for utilizing the canal areas but that legislation, such as the ARI, is necessary.

Delay Said Result of PRD 'Boycott'

PA0402212093 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by Irene Hernandez G.]

[Text] It took the National Assembly plenum three consecutive days to finally approve on 3 February, during its second debate, the 'second' article of the bill proposal creating the Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI). In all, it took the National Assembly eight days to approve two articles of the aforementioned document. This delay, according to PDC [Christian Democratic Party] Legislator Gloria Moreno de Lopez, is a result of a "boycott" promoted by the PRD [Revolutionary Democratic Party].

The legislators who addressed the assembly on 3 February merely decided to make lengthy speeches, especially the PRD representatives who wore out the two opportunities (30 minutes each) allowed by the new internal procedures just to refer to one article under discussion.

During one of his interventions, PRD President Gerardo Gonzalez warned the other members of the assembly that the ARI bill proposal would be discussed gradually, even if it meant discussing it for months.

According to PDC Legislator Gloria Moreno de Lopez, the threat by Gonzalez is a clear indication that that political organization merely seeks to prolong the ARI discussions with the objective of not having it approved during the current extraordinary sessions.

She said that the PRD strategy is to have the project discussed during the assembly's ordinary sessions scheduled to begin in March. This would allow them to negotiate

the amnesty project with the government in exchange for their favorable vote on the ARI.

As pointed out by Moreno de Lopez, the PRD members are merely trying to delay the debate by resorting to repetitive arguments such as insisting the ARI become a real estate company.

On the other hand, Arnulfo Escalona [Liberal Party legislator] criticized those legislators who have resorted to repetitive arguments that, in his opinion, are intended to "unnecessarily" prolong the ARI bill discussions.

Escalona, as well as Legislators Arturo Vallarino [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, Molirena] and Guillermo Cochez [PDC] are of the opinion that, with the passage of the second of the 67 ARI articles, the proposal has now taken shape and the debates will proceed more rapidly.

The article approved is a modification to the original project and refers to definitions on: canal area, reverted goods, general plan, and hydrographic basin.

Escalona advised his colleagues that they should take advantage of the opportunity and approve a bill such as the ARI that is so significant and far reaching. He also said they should stop "being a nuisance with their useless and repetitive speeches."

"Today we have the enormous responsibility of doing something with the end result of the blood spilled by our martyrs during the heroic 1964 movement. Through our efforts we must honor the historic sacrifices made by those Panamanians who gave us access to the canal," Escalona warned.

In the meanwhile, PDC Legislator Raul Ossa stated that failure to pass the ARI as a bill will be a defeat to the Assembly and would only reflect a negative image as well as harsh criticism from public opinion.

Ossa reminded the other legislators that it is not the Executive Branch that has the last word with respect to the appointment of the nine Panamanians who will be in charge of managing the ARI. The responsibility to appoint and ratify those nine persons will fall on the National Assembly.

"We must all take up the spirit of national unity and consensus to offer the country a bill that carries great benefits to the most needy sectors", Ossa said.

The plenum is expected to resume its permanent debate today to continue to discuss the following articles (a total of 67) of the 47 modifications presented to the full Assembly.

Article Two Approved

PA0402193593 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 4 Feb 93 p 1A

[Report by Eduardo Soto P.]

[Text] A "conciliatory modification" to the second article of the draft bill that creates the Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI) was unanimously approved on 3 February, after over 12 hours of what some legislators called "tortuous debate."

Prior to its approval, there were over 20 interventions by legislators who opposed the original article.

Immediately after the approval of the aforementioned modification—drafted by legislators from all the parties represented at the Legislative Assembly—, the discussion of the third article of the ARI draft bill began.

From the second article, the legislators eliminated the reference to the authority the ARI would have for planning the development of the urban and rural areas surrounding the waterway—besides already having the authority to plan the development of the Panama Canal Area and the hydrographic basin.

This authority would have allowed the ARI to intervene in the growth of Panama City and Colon and the districts of San Miguelito, Arraijan, and La Chorrera.

The Assembly added that as a duty of the ARI's General Plan, the need to watch for the full development of the Panamanian maritime sector. This new outlook was proposed by the Panamanian Association of Business Executives (APEDE).

With regard to the development of the Interoceanic Region, it was established—by modifying the original article—that the regional plan will be drafted by the ARI, but that plan's approval, rejection, or later modification will be the duty of the Legislative Assembly.

As was approved on 3 February, the administration and exploitation of the Panama Canal, which is considered to be the main interest to be reverted, will be subject to another "Special Law" already being drafted by the Executive Branch through the ad hoc commission that drafted the ARI bill.

On 4 February, the Legislative Assembly plenum will continue to debate the third article of the draft bill that deals, in a broad manner, with the duties of the ARI, which include the promotion and administration of the reverted interests.

Police Arrest Man Suspected of Terrorism

PA0402230293 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Jan 93 p1A

[Report by Ibeth Vega G.]

[Text] The National Police San Miguelito station captured Isabelino Moreno Medina, 21, on 27 January. Moreno is allegedly involved in acts of terrorism that have taken place in the country in the past few months. The police confiscated war weapons from this man, according to National Police Director Oswaldo Fernandez. Fernandez added that the police stopped a Toyota Carina car with Medina inside. Two individuals who were with him managed to escape.

The police found a grenade, two fake mortars, a ski mask, and several 9mm bullets inside Moreno's car.

"The investigation will establish if this man is linked to acts of terrorism carried out in the past few months, but it is not normal for a person to own those kinds of weapons," the National Police director said.

Moreno, who was not carrying identification, was captured near Urraca Valley when the police spotted him and two others driving in a suspicious manner. According to Fernandez, Moreno denies any involvement in acts of terrorism, "but that will depend on the investigation conducted by the Judicial Technical Police, as he will be transferred to that agency."

Governor Establishes Curfew for Minors

PA0402214393 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Governor Plutarco Arrocha issued instructions to mayors and corregimiento representatives in the Province of Panama and asked them to act firmly against juvenile delinquency.

Effective 4 February, a curfew for minors will be established from 2100 to 0600 and police operations will be mounted to ensure compliance with the six articles contained in the governor's resolution.

A few days ago, a curfew for minors was implemented in San Miguelito due to the high crime rate among adolescents.

Argentina

Defense Minister Gonzalez Visits Germany

PY0402180893 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez, who is currently visiting Bonn, has announced that Argentina has started talks with the German Dornier consortium for the purchase of three or four planes for transporting National Border Police personnel involved in drug enforcement operations. Gonzalez said the planes will cost $20 million.

Gonzalez also spoke with executives of the German Thyssen consortium, asking them to participate in the reconfiguration of Argentine state-owned shipyards with which Thyssen had signed a technological assistance agreement to build submarines.

Gonzalez has begun the second and last stage of his working visit to Germany. In Frankfurt, he spoke with officials of the Deustche Bank, the leading German commercial bank.

Comments on U.S. Import Restrictions

PY0402205893 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 3 Feb 93 Economic Section p 1

[Excerpt] The economic pragmatism shown by U.S. President Bill Clinton in imposing duty restrictions on steel imports from 19 countries—including Argentina—has Defense Minister Erman Gonzales concerned. "Let's hope that the measure is exceptional and does not mark the beginning of a general policy."

Gonzalez expressed his "fears" at the protectionist measure during a news conference held in Bonn yesterday. At the same time in Brussels, only a few kilometers away, representatives of the 12 EC member countries also rejected, as a group, the trade sanctions imposed by the United States on their steel sales.

In fact, Clinton's decision to protect the U.S. economy—in line with a decision made by his predecesor George Bush—has gone much further. Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor made up a long list of EEC products that public organizations will not be able to purchase as of 22 March. It includes mainly telecommunications equipment.

Gonzalez said in Germany: "This has shaken our government somehow, because if the trend is confirmed it will change everything industrialized and developing that countries have achieved so far." This sanction against our country affected mainly the steel company Aceros Parana (former Somisa and now owned by Techint), and it is due to alleged dumping practices.

U.S. authorities accused the local company of exporting hot-rolled steel at prices between 20 to 28 percent below local prices. The measure was approved by the Bush administration shortly before leaving office, and Clinton's Democratic administration ratified his Republican predecessor's decision shortly after taking over.

"So far our relations with the United States have been excellent. We hope this measure is an exception, and will not hurt in any way our trade exchange," Erman Gonzalez stressed. [passage omitted]

British Official Says Menem Visit 'Not Defined'

PY0402225293 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 3 Feb 93 p 5

[Text] British Under Secretary Baroness Linda Chalker [name and title as published] has said that her government has not defined anything with regard to an eventual trip to the United Kingdom by Argentine President Carlos Menem, and that "no Argentine indication" had been made on this subject. She said that if such a visit should occur, it would require "careful preparation."

Chalker made this statement after a debate in the House of Lords in which house members analyzed the recent trip to Argentina made by Secretary of State Douglas Hurd, who visited Buenos Aires during the second week of January.

The British official responded in this manner to statements made by Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella on 1 February in Bern, Switzerland, to a CLARIN correspondent. Di Tella said that the British Government had invited President Carlos Menem to visit the United Kingdom.

On that occasion Di Tella said that the date of the visit had not been determined.

The statements made yesterday by Baroness Chalker sounded more like a denial than a confirmation of what was said by the Argentine foreign minister, who was accompanying President Menem on his trip to Switzerland which concluded yesterday.

The economic issues—especially fishing, which is essential for the Kelpers—are the British priorities in relations with Argentina. The thorny issue of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands is meanwhile protected under the "umbrella" formula.

The validity of this formula was observed during the visit to Buenos Aires 20 days ago by the British secretary of state, who expressed surprise because he had been able to speak with Argentine officials "without being bombarded with the sovereignty issue."

London is interested mainly in reaching a definite solution for several years over fishing licenses in the South Atlantic Ocean, especially those for fishing squid.

The British position may well be interpreted as pressure on Argentina to extend the agreement reached between the two foreign ministries for squid fishing, which will last for one year.

If such a condition exists, it is probable that Menem would travel to the United Kingdom after Argentina had begun negotiations for a permanent fishing agreement satisfactory to the interests of the British and the Kelpers.

At the debate in the House of Lords, Baroness Chalker also said that during Hurd's visit to Argentina "there was no exchange of opinions on the subject."

The Argentine Government allowed the United Kingdom to learn about the president's interest in visiting London, while Minister Di Tella is lately making efforts to stress the good relations between our country and the British. He expects to reach an agreement this year on establishing communications between Argentina and the islands.

Mobile Hospital Ready for Service in Mozambique

PY0402181193 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1156 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Feb (TELAM)—It has been officially reported that the Argentine Air Force has prepared a mobile hospital—the only one of its kind in the country—and the personnel to operate it, for shipment to Mozambique.

The Air Force issued a communique saying that Brigadier General Jose Julia ordered the mobile hospital to be in a state of readiness following a UN request "for the shipment of health equipment to Mozambique."

The mission includes 40 specialists in different medical areas and support personnel. They have already been selected and are expected to travel to that African country within a few days.

The mobile hospital is a complex system of medical equipment that can be transported by plane. It comprises 11 modules of the "container" type that are interconnected and can operate in temperatures varying from 60 degrees centigrade to 30 below zero.

The hospital has 15 beds, an operating theater, an intensive care unit, an x-ray room, an emergency treatment room, a dental care unit, and a laboratory, etc. It has its own water treatment plant and two generators to provide electricity.

Brazil

Republican Presidentialist Movement Founded

PY0402225093 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Politicians from several parties have founded the Sao Paulo Republican Presidentialist Movement [Movimento Republicano Presidencialista de Sao Paulo], which will defend presidentialism in the 21 April plebiscite. On that day the public will choose the government system that is to have force in Brazil.

In Sao Paulo today, in a festive atmosphere, Orestes Quercia, national president of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party, PMDB, founded the Republican Presidentialist Movement. The ceremony was also attended by Senator Marco Maciel, Presidentialist Front national coordinator; Goias Governor Iris Rezende; Amazonas Governor Gilberto Mestrinho; many politicians; and several PMDB members. During the ceremony a campaign in favor of maintaining 21 April as the plebiscite date was also begun. The strongest argument the supporters of presidentialism will use during the campaign is that the parliamentary system of government prevents the people from using their right to choose who will govern the country.

Shortly before the beginning of the ceremony, PMDB President Quercia made clear that he supports presidentialism. He added, however, that some modifications must be implemented:

[Begin Quercia recording] We want to strengthen congressional presence in the budget, as occurs in the United States where the budget is actually voted on by Congress and the executive branch is forced to respect this budget. [end recording]

President Franco Sanctions Plebiscite Law

PY0502124893 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] President Itamar Franco has just sanctioned, vetoing just one part, the law on the plebiscite to elect a government system.

Brazilian citizens will decide on 21 April what government system they want to rule their country, that is, a republic, a monarchy, a presidential, or a parliamentary system.

President Franco has vetoed the ballot slip proposed by Congress and has asked the Superior Electoral Court to design a new ballot slip.

Government Seeks New Agreement With IMF

PY0502140893 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Feb 93 Economy and Business Section p 3

[Article by Beatriz Abreu]

[Text] Brasilia—The government will resume negotiations with the IMF next week, ready to fight against a proposal by IMF technicians to demand from Brazil a primary surplus (revenues minus expenditures) of 6 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) this year and to fight to change the IMF way of measuring the public deficit. This was revealed by Finance Minister Paulo Haddad, who tomorrow will leave for Washington to meet with IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus and with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

"We want a feasible agreement that can be fulfilled," the minister said. "We do not want to be dramatic in our discussions on the goals, but 6 percent is not feasible." Haddad thus referred to an initial proposal by the IMF technicians expressed during talks with Brazilian technical missions. He said that the IMF talks about numbers that are not realistic. "We have signed seven letters of intent and three agreements, but none of them has been fulfilled. President Itamar Franco wants an agreement that can be fulfilled."

Proposal

The general guidelines of the proposal that Haddad will submit to Camdessus seek an 18-month agreement, effective during Itamar Franco's period of administration, that is, until December 1994, with a safeguard clause. The

agreement will be liable to revision following the establishment of the constitutional review and the tax reform. "It will be a special agreement that can be reviewed following the constitutional and tax reform," Haddad said. "The result of negotiations in Congress will provide gains in 1994 greater than in 1993."

The minister will not discuss a new letter of intent with the IMF, but will take advantage of the agreement negotiated by former Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira. "The idea is to merely modify the technical memorandum of understandings," Haddad said. The technical memorandum is the document that specifies each performance goal the country is forced to fulfill to give continuity to the agreement. Those goals will be discussed in March when the IMF technical delegation is expected to arrive in Brazil, Haddad said.

* Russians To Develop Fuel for Launch Vehicle

93SM0135C Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 23-25 Jan 93 p 5

[Article by Brasilia correspondent Luiza Pastor]

[Text] Pernambuco State PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] Senator Mansueto de Lavor, rapporteur for the Joint Congressional Budget Committee, has decided to reconsider the appropriation he had earmarked for the Brazilian space program, in which only 16 billion cruzeiros of the 70 billion cruzeiros requested by the Brazilian Aerospace Commission (COBAE) were allocated for the development of the Satellite Launch Vehicle (VLS).

Mansueto de Lavor expressed his irritation with the repeated changes in the launch date of the SCD-1 and assured GAZETA MERCANTIL that he intends to reexamine the appropriations for research and development to see how much is still possible to allocate to the Brazilian rocket project, as well as for the development of the Alcantara Launch Center (CLA) in Maranhao State. That base, which is advantageously located from the standpoint of international competition, would, if completed, enable Brazil to be included in the exclusive club of countries that compete in the satellite launch market.

Additional information that predisposes the senator to release more funds for the mission is that a group of 12 Russian scientists contacted [as published] by the Aerospace Technical Center (CTA) is already in Brazil, having been invited to work on the project to develop fuel for the three stages of the launch vehicle. The presence of those scientists was confirmed to GAZETA MERCANTIL this week by Colonel Freitas Bastos, executive director of COBAE, who cautioned that the contracting of the Russians was "still extra-official" since it has not been submitted to the plenary of the Committee for ratification.

"We cannot have these brains here in Brazil without a function that enables them to be well utilized," Mansueto de Lavor emphasized. However, the latest partial figures from his report show that 67 percent of the Union budget funds will go to pay off the public debt, and only 1.4 percent is to be spent under the heading of projects and development of the country in general. Under the item for science and technology, which covers not only the ministry but all the research fields in the various areas of the Executive Branch, the total budget forecast by Mansueto de Lavor is 2.37 trillion cruzeiros—of which the Ministry of Science and Technology itself will get only $1.78 trillion cruzeiros, in April 1992 values. Those sums, the budget committee advisers explain, will have to be updated by multiplying them by a factor yet to be determined, but that will be somewhere between 15 and 20.

Regarding the space mission, the VLS has 16.2 billion cruzeiros available so far, and the program to develop the SCD-2, the satellite that will be the successor to the SCD-1, is getting $1.8 billion cruzeiros; the installation of the base at Alcantara, in turn, received an appropriation of 8.8 billion cruzeiros.

The situation is not very different in other areas of high-tech research. According to the senator, the budget sought by the Navy Ministry, for example, called for only $2.3 billion cruzeiros under the heading of research and development, with the specific program for the Antarctic not being separately listed. In his final version of the report, he obligated 1.9 billion cruzeiros to the research being done in that region.

Colombia

Suspected Drug Trafficker Surrenders Properties

PA0502140293 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 31 Jan 93 p 8

[Text] Presumed drug trafficker Juan David Rossi Ramirez turned over 11 million pesos in real estate to the Colombian and U.S. Governments within the framework of an agreement with the Prosecutor General's Office to receive the benefits of the decrees on reduction of penalties set forth in Article 37 of the new Penal Code.

Lawyer Gustavo Salazar Pineda, Rossi Ramirez' defense lawyer, said that more than $15 million in real estate properties were delivered to the Colombian and U.S. Governments through a legal agreement with the Colombian prosecutor and deputy prosecutor general.

Salazar Pineda said Juan David Rossi turned over a casino, apartments, houses, vehicles, and several motorcycles that were confiscated in Florida.

Rossi Ramirez turned himself in to the Prosecutor General's Office several days ago in order to receive the benefits or the decrees on reduction of penalties established in Article 37 of the new Penal Code.

According to Salazar Pineda, the value of the properties delivered by Rossi Ramirez could be between $10 and $15 million. "The value of many of those properties has not yet been assessed, but according to the person who turned himself in, the casino could easily cost $3 to $5 million. In addition, the other assets including houses, apartments, cars, and some motorcycles have a good price. I believe this is very significant. They are valuable assets. Colombia can negotiate and appraise those assets."

Salazar Pineda invited those who have pending cases with justice to surrender.

He justified his request saying that "no one wants to go through the same experience as the Santa Fe de Bogota councilmen, an experience that—in my opinion—was very

shameful. They underestimated justice and cannot blame the Prosecutor General's Office as it was their own fault."

"I believe it would be wiser and more within the legal framework for those persons who have links to drug trafficking to surrender voluntarily, because being arrested can be a very shameful and sad experience," he stressed.

Authorities Confirm Deaths of Escobar Associates

PA0502043993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] On the afternoon of 4 February Medellin authorities confirmed the death of Jorge Garcia, alias Gordo Jorge. He was very close to the confessed drug trafficker Pablo Escobar. Juan Yepes Flores, alias Johnny Lada, another one of Escobar's cronies, was killed on 3 February. Two other men were also riddled with bullets in this blood bath. They were known as El Nato and El Profe.

Paraguay

Rodriguez Denies Pressuring Supreme Court

PY0402210993 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] President Andres Rodriguez yesterday challenged Supreme Court members and the chief justice "to publicly identify who had requested their resignations." Rodriguez categorically denied that this had been done at his suggestion.

Responding to rumors that the executive branch had reportedly suggested that some Supreme Court members resign, President Rodriguez said: "I do not believe there are pressures of any kind. You can ask this of the Supreme Court members yourselves. During these past four years I have never made any suggestions to them nor meddled in their affairs, and much less did I make such a request. In this regard, therefore, no government branch is interfering in the affairs of another; they are interdependent."

After denying any involvement in the alleged request made to the Supreme Court members, Rodriguez said: Why should I ask them to resign? "All I could do is suggest that they tender their resignations, but I am not empowered to request their resignations. Perhaps this could be done as a last resource to solve an existing problem... But I do not believe their resignations would help us resolve any existing problems." [quotation marks as published]

PLRA Leader Views Pressure

PY0502122193 Lambare Paraguay Radio Cardinal in Spanish 0900 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Senator Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, president of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, PLRA, said in a news conference that the latest rumors seek to create a state of mini-anarchy over the Colorado Party extraordinary convention scheduled for 14 February. Based on this mini-anarchy, a state of exception could be declared, the Supreme Court justices could be replaced, and Justice and Labor Minister Oscar Paciello could be appointed Supreme Court president. The PLRA president said these rumors were confirmed.

[Begin Benitez Florentin recording] According to the rumors, the intention is to create a state of mini-anarchy over the 14 February Colorado convention. Based on this alleged state of mini-anarchy or state of public unrest, a state of exception could be declared. There is also the intention to change the members of the Supreme Court and to appoint Justice Minister Paciello as Supreme Court president. This has been confirmed. This is an objective fact. It is not a rumor. There has been an attempt to carry out this maneuver.

I am not saying that this maneuver is being carried out by the president of the Republic himself. It could have been someone near the president, someone who suggested it as part of the maneuver. But who invoked the name of the president. It is possible. As far as I know, it was someone who has that style, who goes and says: I have come to speak in name of the president. It could have not been like that. However, he is a very influential person.

If the Supreme Court members were changed, there would be many new possibilities with a docile Supreme Court. The first possibility is that this new Supreme Court would rule in favor of a determined Colorado presidential hopeful. This would solve, in a predetermined way, the Colorado Party crisis which would allow us—and this is true—to have the 9 May elections with the participation of a Colorado candidate, thus solving the internal Colorado crisis, that is, the legal confrontation.

There is also another possibility, another stage, that Congress would be dissolved in order to allegedly—I stress allegedly according to the rumor—allow the president of the Republic to step aside and allow the Supreme Court president to become president of the Republic because there would be no congressional president. This means that the elections could be postponed for six months or for a year. It would represent a de facto government that would postpone the elections for as long as it pleases. This is a very serious projection of a coup d'etat. This is very delicate. I am saying that these are rumors. But to stop the rumors, we must adopt clear positions before the public. [end recording]

Minister Comments on Pressure

PY0502124293 Lambare Paraguay Radio Cardinal in Spanish 0900 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The government has denied the statements made by the Supreme Court justices. Justice and Labor Minister Oscar Paciello has denied that anyone in the name of President Rodriguez suggested that some justices should resign. Paciello created some doubts, however, when he said that if he were a Supreme Court member, he would not hesitate to resign.

[Begin recording] [Paciello] I ask you journalists to investigate who signed the decree appointing most of the Supreme Court members. Under which government, which presidency, did they work? What were their rulings in the case of Escolastico Ovando, Napoleon Ortigoza, the closure of ABC COLOR newspaper? [well-known controversial rulings] You can then draw your conclusions.

[Unidentified reporter] To whom do you refer?

[Paciello] I am not referring to anyone. Do you think I am referring to someone?

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Paciello] Of course, this means you must investigate as journalists.

[Reporter] The question is to whom are you alluding...

[Paciello, interrupting] I am not saying anything. I am just suggesting that if I were in the place of the person being questioned, I would not remain one minute in my post. [end recording]

Colorado Deputy Discusses Defending Constitution

PY0502135593 Lambare Paraguay Radio Cardinal in Spanish 0900 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] In light of rumors of the termination of the state of law, Colorado Deputy Julio Cesar Frutos [vice presidential candidate of the Gustavo Diaz de Vivar slate and Argana faction sympathizer] said that the Constitution does not permit the dissolution of Congress. Some think Congress can be dissolved, he said, but no one will do it.

[Begin recording] [Frutos] There is no possibility. There is no authority who can do this. There has been no meeting of people who could possibly derogate the Constitution, therefore it is still prevailing. Only a national constituent assembly can modify the Constitution.

[Unidentified reporter] To what situation do you refer?

[Frutos] I mean that if anyone is thinking of dissolving Congress, Congress will continue to work. There is no force capable of dissolving Congress, not even the Supreme Court of Justice. Likewise, there is no force capable of making Supreme Court members resign.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Frutos] I am speaking of the Constitution and informing my fellow country men that we have the total right to arm ourselves to defend our institutions. What is more, it is our duty. Whoever considers breaking the legal order established by the Constitution must know that there are people who will arm themselves, who will uprise to defend their institutions.

[Reporter] What do you mean exactly by saying to arm ourselves to defend the Constitution? What are you really saying? Please clarify this so as not to be misunderstood.

[Frutos] The Constitution expressly says that any means may be used. That is, to defend our sovereignty, our democracy, we may take up arms. That is what can be understood in the part where the Constitution states any means. This means that those who dream of dissolving Congress or of making Supreme Court members resign are deeply mistaken. We have a people who have matured and who have included in their Constitution, with the consensus of all the political forces of the country, that democracy will never again be subjugated in our country. [end recording]

Peru

U.S. To Resume Air Reconnaissance Flights

PY0502002793 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 28 Jan 93 pp 13-15

[Article by Francisco Reyes from the Investigative Unit]

[Excerpts] The United States will soon resume its flights by AWACS [Airborne Warning and Control System] and Orion surveillance aircraft from the Southern Command, headquartered in Panama. These flights had been interrupted due to an incident that took place on 24 April 1992, when the Air Force fired some shots at a U.S. C-130 plane. [passage omitted]

The installation of radar would be the first stage of a comprehensive strategy geared toward "facilitating matters for police aircraft to obtain advance permits for overflights, which would be part of multinational operations to fight drug trafficking."

U.S. representatives tried to play down the fact that these international air operations might spark off friction between neighboring countries. "We know from experience that it is possible to respect a country's sovereignty and at the same time allow police aircraft to enter the country within a framework of clear-cut rules," they contended.

Drug traffickers have nonetheless managed to adapt to the new situation and defy, so far quite successfully, the screen of radars.

By way of example, as the Air Force maintains a presence in Uchiza, Tocache, and lately in Juanjui, drug traffickers have shifted their operations to improved stretches of the Marginal highway.

Likewise, drug rings have streamlined their networks for road and river transport of drugs in order to evade the airway patrols carried out by the Air Force during the day, as was reported by Fermin Cantabrana, rector of Juanjui parish.

Moreover, Peruvian drug traffickers have enhanced raw cocaine paste, making it more pure and very similar to cocaine hydrochloride.

They can thus cut down the number of flights from Colombia to ship the Peruvian drugs, as only one aircraft can transport the same amount of drugs as four light aircraft did in the past.

This is also because the new Colombian aircraft have greater cargo capacity and speed. This new generation of light aircraft is popularly known as "turboprops."

In other words, they are no longer twin-engined planes with screw propellers, but small jet planes with an average cargo hold capacity of 1,000 kg.

Colombian "turboprops" are fitted with high-precision inertial guidance equipment, which enables them to fly at night without major problems. An Air Force source explained that "once the coordinates are traced, the aircraft heads exactly toward the selected point."

Night flights constitute another innovation introduced by drug trafficking rings to avoid being caught in the surveillance operations carried out by Air Force "Tucanos" and Santa Lucia Antidrug Police helicopters.

It goes without saying that drug traffickers are well aware that "Tucanos" only operate during the day, from 0700 to 1800, and they have accordingly modified their "business" hours.

A seasoned Air Force pilot explained that "it is not a question of our being unable to operate during the night. We could, but that would be pointless because even with radars and evening guidance equipment, the location of Colombian light aircraft is done visually, and they always switch the lights off while they fly."

Another officer pointed out that the work done by aircraft to track drug traffickers must be complemented by intelligence reports enabling timely strikes by air or land.

Referring to the inner dynamics of the struggle against drug trafficking, the source stated that "there is no predetermined war."

This is the reason why, in addition to mobile radar and aircraft with electronic surveillance capability, there are approximately six to eight "Tucano" planes of Brazilian make stationed in the Huallaga region. These planes have been placed on full alert and are ready for action at any time.

"We hope to increase the seizure of light aircraft carrying drugs by 90 percent," said a high-ranking Air Force source quite optimistically.

The installation of radar has, in turn, brought about the so-called "snowball" effect, or the shifting of drug trafficking rings' operations to neighboring countries.

Air Force experts told LA REPUBLICA that drug traffickers have diverted their shipments of drugs to the unprotected Brazilian border town of Cruzeiro do Sul. From there the drugs are distributed to the interior.

Following the recent seizure of 11 kg of cocaine hydrochloride, Brazilian Federal Police conceded that Rio de Janeiro and the ports of Santos, Recife, and Fortaleza have become the leading connecting points for drugs in transit to Europe and the United States.

In Brazil, however, the Antidrug Police are poorly equipped with aircraft, helicopters, radar, and trained personnel to track and intercept flights by cocaine traffickers who have settled in Brazilian border areas and main cities.

The change of routing toward the vast Amazon forest was prompted by the installation of radar, tracking equipment, and antidrug bases in Leticia, a Colombian town located near the border with Peru.

Moreover, the stepping up of air patrols in the Huallaga region has coincided with the diversion of drug shipments to the neighboring country of Venezuela. According to DEA sources, approximately 500 metric tons of cocaine enter Venezuela annually, or in other words six times the amount estimated in 1989, when George Bush launched the so-called Andean strategy against drugs.

Uruguay

Agriculture Minister Ramos Tenders Resignation

PY0502024093 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 30 Jan 93 p 7

[Text] Engineer Alvaro Ramos yesterday formally submitted his resignation as minister of agriculture and fishing, thanking the president for the opportunity to work closely with him.

Agriculture and Fishing Under Secretary Pedro Saravia also submitted his resignation.

Interior Minister Juan Andres Ramirez will be the acting head of the portfolio until Ramos' replacement is designated.